

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-20. (Cancelled.)

21. (Cancelled.)

22. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~claim 21~~claim 45 wherein in formula (1) of component (a) AO represents ethylene oxide (EO), propylene oxide (PO) and/or butylene oxide (BO), wherein EO, PO and BO can be present in any sequence order.

23. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 22, wherein AO represents ethylene oxide and/or propylene oxide.

24. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~claim 21~~claim 45, wherein the alkaline agent (component (b)) is selected from the group consisting of sodium and potassium hydroxides, sodium and potassium tripolyphosphates, ammonium, sodium and potassium carbonates and/or hydrogencarbonates and amines.

25. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~claim 21~~claim 45, wherein the chelating agent (component (c)) is selected from the group consisting of aminocarboxylic acids and salts thereof, phosphonic acids and salts thereof, gluconic acid and salts thereof and water-soluble acrylic polymers.

26. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 25, wherein the chelating agent is selected from the group consisting of iminodisuccinic acid (IDS), nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid (EDTA), N-hydroxyethyl-ethylenediamine triacetic acid (HEDTA), diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid (DTPA), glutamic-N,N-diacetic acid (GLDA), aspartic-N,N-diacetic acid (ASDA), methylglycine diacetic acid (MGDA), hydroxyethyl iminodiacetic acid (HEIDA), triethylenetetramine hexaacetic acid (TTHA) and salts thereof.

27. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~claim 21~~claim 45, wherein the alkanolamine (component (d)) is diethanolamine or triethanolamine.

28. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 21claim 45, wherein the surfactant (component (e)) is a nonionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of ethoxylated alkylphenols, ethoxylated aliphatic alcohols, ethoxylated amines, ethoxylated etheramines, carboxylic esters, carboxylic amides, polyoxyalkyleneoxide block-copolymers and alkylated alkylethoxylates and/or an anionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of alkoxylated hydrocarbyl carboxylate, sulfonate, sulfate and phosphate esters, and/or a cationic surfactant selected from the group consisting of quaternary hydrocarbyl ammonium halides, and/or a zwitterionic or amphoteric surfactant selected from betaine and sulfobetaine surfactants.

29. (Cancelled.)

30. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 29claim 45, wherein the hydrotrope is selected from the group consisting of monofunctional and polyfunctional alcohols and glycol and glycoether compounds, and polyfunctional organic alcohols.

31.-32. (Cancelled.)

33. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 21claim 45, wherein the corrosion inhibitor system ~~comprises~~consists of

- a) from 0.01 to 15 wt.% of the alkyleneoxy-alkyl phosphate di- or triester of general formula (I),
- b) from 0.5 to 50 wt.% of the alkaline agent the amount being sufficient to achieve a pH of > 7.0 in the global system,
- c) optionally from 0.01 to 50 wt.% of the chelating agent,
- d) optionally from 0.05 to 10 wt. % of the alkanolamine and/or further corrosion co-inhibitor,
- e) optionally from 0.1 to 98 wt. % of the nonionic surfactant, and
- f) water for the balance, and
- g) from 0.01 to 20 wt.% of the hydrotrope.

34.-36. (Cancelled.)

37. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~claim 35~~claim 45, wherein the corrosion inhibitor system ~~is used in the form of a diluted use solution comprising~~consists of

- a) from 0.0001 to 0.15 wt.% of ~~the~~ alkyleneoxy-alkyl phosphate di- or triester of general formula (I),
- b) from 0.005 to 0.50 wt.% of ~~the~~ alkaline agent, the amount being sufficient to achieve a pH of > 7.0 in the global system,
- c) ~~optionally~~ from 0.0001 to 0.50 wt.% of ~~the~~ chelating agent,
- d) ~~optionally~~ from 0.0005 to 0.10 wt.% of ~~the~~ alkanolamine, and/or further corrosion co-inhibitor,
- e) ~~optionally~~ from 0.001 to 0.98 wt.% of ~~the~~ nonionic surfactant, [[and]]
- f) water for the balance, and
- g) from 0.0001 to 0.20 wt.% of ~~the~~ hydrotrope.

38.-39. (Cancelled)

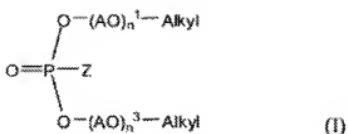
40. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~claim 21~~claim 45, wherein the metal is aluminum, copper, brass, zinc, or bismuth.

41.-42. (Cancelled.)

43.-44. (Cancelled.)

45. (Previously Presented) A process for treating metal surfaces of aluminum or colored metals and alloys thereof, the process comprising subjecting the metal surfaces to a corrosion inhibitor system consisting of

- a) an alkyleneoxy-alkyl phosphate di- or triester having the general formula



where Z is either -O-M or -O-(AO)_n² - Alkyl

wherein

M is an ammonium, alkali metal or alkaline earth metal cation,

Alkyl independent from each other, is a straight or branched, saturated or unsaturated alkyl group having from 5 to 22 carbon atoms or is an alkylaryl group wherein alkyl is as defined above and aryl is a monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic group.

AO represents an alkylene oxide having from 2 to 4 carbon atoms which may be substituted by one or more C₁₋₃ alkyl groups, and

n¹, n² and n³ independent from each other are an integer of from 2 to 10;

b) an alkaline agent in an amount sufficient to achieve a pH of > 7.0 in the global system;

- c) a chelating agent;
- d) an alkanolamine;
- e) a nonionic surfactant;
- f) water; and
- g) a hydrotrope;

at a temperature of from 0 to 80°C for 10 s to 60 min,

wherein the alkyleneoxy-alkyl phosphate di- or triester of formula I is selected such that the corrosion inhibitor system reduces the corrosion rate of an aluminum surface subjected to the corrosion inhibitor system at a temperature of 60°C for 60 min by a factor of at least 300 as

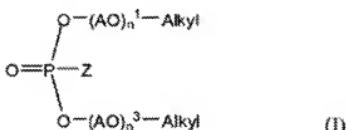
compared to the aluminum surface subjected to the corrosion inhibitor system without the selected alkyleneoxy-alkyl phosphate di- or triester of formula I under the same conditions.

46. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 45, wherein the alkyleneoxy-alkyl phosphate di- or triester of formula I is selected such that the corrosion inhibitor system reduces the corrosion rate of an aluminum surface subjected to the corrosion inhibitor system at a temperature of 60°C for 60 min by a factor of at least 1000 as compared to the aluminum surface subjected to the corrosion inhibitor system without the selected alkyleneoxy-alkyl phosphate di- or triester of formula I under the same conditions.

47. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 45, wherein the alkyleneoxy-alkyl phosphate di- or triester of formula I is an ethoxylated alkyl phosphate diester.

48. (Previously Presented) A process for treating metal surfaces of aluminum or colored metals and alloys thereof, the process comprising subjecting the metal surfaces to a corrosion inhibitor system comprising

a) at least one alkyleneoxy-alkyl phosphate di- or triester having the general formula



where Z is either -O-M or -O-(AO)ⁿ² - Alkyl

wherein

M is an ammonium, alkali metal or alkaline earth metal cation,

Alkyl independent from each other, is a straight or branched, saturated or unsaturated alkyl group having from 5 to 22 carbon atoms or is an alkylaryl group wherein alkyl is as defined above and aryl is a monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic group,

AO represents an alkylene oxide having from 2 to 4 carbon atoms which may be substituted by one or more C₁₋₃ alkyl groups, and

n¹, n² and n³ independent from each other are an integer of from 2 to 10;

b) at least one alkaline agent in an amount sufficient to achieve a pH of > 7.0 in the global system,

c) optionally at least one chelating agent,

d) optionally at least one alkanolamine as an additional corrosion inhibiting agent and/or a further corrosion co-inhibitor,

e) at least one anionic surfactant, wherein the anionic surfactant is a phosphate ester, and

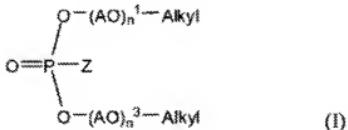
f) water,

at a temperature of from 0 to 80°C for 10 s to 60 min,

wherein the alkyleneoxy-alkyl phosphate di- or triester of formula I and the anionic phosphate ester surfactant are different compounds.

49. (New) A process for treating metal surfaces of aluminum or colored metals and alloys thereof, the process comprising subjecting the metal surfaces to a corrosion inhibitor system consisting of

a) an alkyleneoxy-alkyl phosphate di- or triester having the general formula



where Z is either -O-M or -O-(AO)_n² - Alkyl

wherein

M is an ammonium, alkali metal or alkaline earth metal cation,

Alkyl independent from each other, is a straight or branched, saturated or unsaturated alkyl group having from 5 to 22 carbon atoms or is an alkylaryl group wherein alkyl is as defined above and aryl is a monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic group,

AO represents an alkylene oxide having from 2 to 4 carbon atoms which may be substituted by one or more C₁₋₃ alkyl groups, and

n¹, n² and n³ independent from each other are an integer of from 2 to 10;

b) an alkaline agent in an amount sufficient to achieve a pH of > 7.0 in the global system;

- c) a chelating agent;
- d) an alkanolamine;
- e) a nonionic surfactant;
- f) water; and
- g) a hydrotrope;

at a temperature of from 0 to 80°C for 10 s to 60 min.